THE WOMAN'S

DREADNOUGHT

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THE COMING REFORM BILL: *Speech by Mr. Tom Richardson, M.P.*

"I am particularly glad to have the opportunity of taking part in this Conference at this time, because I believe this Conference to be representative in a special sense of working-class men and women in the great Metropolis of London. I want to be allowed to supplement what your Chairman said when he expressed the opinion that if we are to have a Bill at all, we must have a well-organised public opinion outside Parliament that will compel the present Government to introduce a Bill and carry it through to the Statute Book. I am one of those who hold that view very strongly.

"An Electoral Reform Bill is not only necessary, but is long overdue, and I take this opportunity of urging you representative working men and women, in your various Labour and Trade Union and Socialist bodies, forthwith to commence a very vigorous and active campaign calling upon the Government to take action in this matter.

The urgency and importance of this question in my judgment does not brook delay, and we are entitled as a matter of elementary justice, to the working classes of this country in particular, even at this stage in the history of this great War, to ask the Government's immediate attention for this important subject.

"On the question of Adult Suffrage, needless to say, I am a "whole hogger." I believe that if our politicians and statesmen are anxious to do things in a businesslike way; and if this present Government in spirit and in truth wants to justify the name of a "business Government" we can suggest that at least in one particular they can give very substantial evidence of their fitness for that distinction. The right of every man and woman to full enfranchisement and citizenship, surely, has been the subject of discussion and controversy so long that it ought not to be longer necessary to spend time and energy in urging the justice of that claim.

"You have been reminded that since it was decided to convene this Conference the Speaker's Committee has made a report, and may I be allowed to say that I am very much disappointed with the nature of that report. I grant that in some particulars it does make a step in advance, but as compared with the urgency and importance of the subject, I think it is a tragic failure in the very truest sense of that term, and we shall need to be very careful, we shall need to be on the alert, not to put too much faith, not only in particular Members of Parliament, but in Trade Union leaders. You need to make your Members of Parliament and Labour leaders feel that they owe a duty to the rank and file, and that they have no right, either in Conference or in the House of Commons, to commit a democracy in this country without some form of consultation with the rank and file membership.

"Without saying more on that particular point, I urge you to be on the alert. These are movements, these are tendencies, which will take concrete form. An attempt will be made in the name of Labour to commit the democracy of this country to something infinitely less, far short of that elemental principle that we admit as an act of justice, namely, Adult Suffrage, and it is up to the rank and file to anticipate the scheming politicians and give them to recognise that, whilst we may have to plead guilty to being drugged, in the name of Empire and War, to the neglect of our elemental rights as citizens, on this question we are alert and we are not prepared to lower the flag without putting up a very strenuous fight for Adult Suffrage.

"Reference has been made by the Chairman and Miss Pankhurst to the conscription of men and the probable conscription of women. Your politicians and statesmen and newspaper editors have been paying lip service to the womanhood of this country more within the last twelve or eighteen months than we have hitherto known them do. We are entitled to ask them to deliver the goods and to give some evidence of the sincerity of their professed appreciation of the heroism of the women and of the sacrifice of wifehood and of sisterhood.

"The Leader of the House of Commons, the mouthpiece of the Prime Minister and doorkeeper of the Cabinet, has just asked for a Vote of Credit for 550 million pounds sterling. Those of you who read that speech may have been making some effort to visualise the financial cost of this War. In addition to the industrial reconstruction that we must apply our intelligence to when this ghastly business is over, we have not to forget that whilst it is true that we men will have to pay in the coin of the realm, the womanhood of the nation will be called upon to pay a toll and a penalty that we have no right to impose upon them if we are to keep them outside the pale of citizenship, and, as men, to have the courage, if we are not strong enough to compel Parliament to give us Adult Suffrage to be courageous enough to say: 'then inasmuch as we are not prepared to enfranchise the womanhood of the nation, we will be honourable to the extent that we will not ask them to pay for this terrible tragedy which is now happening in the plains of Europe.'

"The time is ripe, the call is urgent, the fight must be begun indeed, and if democracy will rise to its opportunity, notwithstanding the recommendations of the Speaker's Report, Parliament may be compelled to do justice to the citizens of this country—men and women alike."

By Joseph E. Southall.

St. DOROTHEA REFUSING TO WORSHIP THE IDOL, MARS.

C. H. NORMAN'S DIARY

May 23rd, 1916 (query 24th.—Met with shower of abuse on arrival. Asked for some paper to make will. They asked whether I would put on uniform—refused. Taken to cell and forcibly dressed. Repeated request to make will, as I might not be alive more than three or four days. Officer went to Commandant. I was taken to reception room and signed for things. Commandant arrived; and without a word to me ordered me to be taken to hospital and put in strait jacket. Was taken there and put in strait jacket, which was too small and caused me great pain. I told the attendant, but he could not do anything. Commandant and another officer arrived. Commandant mocked at me and spat at me. Other officer asked whether I was all right: a question which amused me in the circumstances. M.O. (? Medical Officer) came about 8 p.m., but did not explain anything. He said Commandant had said I had threatened suicide. I told him I had asked to make my will, and that was all. After a discussion of my opinions, the M.O. suddenly rushed off. I could not move myself in strait jacket, and suffered a good deal because I wanted to go to the lavatory, but was lying on the floor and could not attract the attendant's attention. I did finally, and went, and then was left standing. I had asked in the beginning for a chair, but was refused it. During the night I became unconscious with pain, and fainted, lying on the floor for an hour, as I heard last the clock strike twelve and I again remember the clock striking 1.30. Sergeant-major came in, and another officer and asked how I was. I told them I was feeling ill. M.O. came at ten, and released me on my giving my word against doing harm whilst under his authority.

May 24th.—In hospital, on asking leave to write my solicitor or friends, Commandant swore and spat at me, expressing hope the M.O. would put me in strait jacket again.

May 26th.—Commandant visited me again; cursed me and said he wished I would cut my throat; that I was a coward who ought to be shot. Also spat at me.

May 30th.—Nothing important. Commandant very annoyed that I was still at hospital.

May 31st.—Sent over to Detention Barracks. Began hunger, thirst and sleep strike.

June 1st.—Ordered to parade by Commandant, who again cursed me and said I should be sent to France; and that it was a pity I was afraid to kill myself. Commandant again said I should be put in strait jacket. Ordered P.D. 1, and put in darkish cell; bread and water diet; all "privileges" taken.

June 2nd.—Still on partial food, drink and sleep strike; eating little brown bread and drinking a drop of water. Nothing fresh. Commandant said he would report me Medical Officer, who would give me the stomach pump.

Sunday, June 4th.—Still on partial food, drink and sleep strike. Commandant said I should be ordered to parade to-morrow, and if I refused, given 21 days No. 2. Later in the day Commandant said I should be forcibly fed next week. Grossly insulted by a N.Z. n.c.o., who threatened to murder me. Commandant also said he was making special report to G.O.C., suggesting I should be more severely punished. He wants me sent to France to be quietly shot.

Diary continued of C. H. Norman at Wandsworth Detention Barracks. (This portion was seized and detained by the authorities till January, 1917.)

June 8th, 1916.—Forcibly fed through nose; very painful. Did not eat anything. Commandant said I should have the stomach pump.

(Continued on Page 682.)

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Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?

THE SEXUAL CRIMES BILL

Those who shirk facing unpleasant truths have endeavoured to make themselves believe that this War has brought upon our people a great ennobling influence. To such people the introduction of the latest Criminal Law Amendment Act, to deal with the spread of venereal disease which has resulted from the War, must come with a shock, in spite of all the efforts which they may make to shut it out of their minds.

For many months the most blatant of the Jingoes, who, of course, profess to know all about the War and the Army and Navy, have been demanding a sexual crimes Bill. Army officers have written to the Press demanding that women and girls shall be imprisoned, and even birched, because, it is alleged, they prey upon the soldiers and sailors, and infect them with disease. The idea of saying to the young soldier or sailor: "My son, live virtuously; be chaste, and you will escape both physical disease and moral corruption," does not appear to enter the heads of the middle-aged officers who are so zealous in their desire to keep the young fighter fit for the front. On the contrary, the military tradition is to maintain and regulate prostitution. As soon as War broke out, such steps were at once taken by the military authorities in Cardiff and other places, but the strong and determined opposition of organised bodies of women secured the withdrawal of the Orders which had been issued.

The Home Secretary's new Bill is an attempt to placate women and those men who dislike vicious ways of life, and at the same time to introduce the regulation of prostitution which the military authorities believe is capable of robbing vice of its consequences.

PROTECTION FOR GIRLS UNDER 16.

The first clause of the Bill provides that:—

Any male person of the age of 16 years or over who commits an act of indecency with a girl under the age of 16 shall be liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding six months. It shall be no defence to a charge under this section to prove that a girl consented to the act of indecency or to assert that her age was not known.

When the Bill came up for second reading, Mr. Rawlinson complained that there is no similar protection for boys, and we agree that protection should be provided for boys, as well as for girls.

Mr. Herbert Samuel, the ex-Home Secretary, urged that the age of protection should be raised from 16 to 17 years, and that a proviso should be added that a girl aged not more than 17, convicted of prostitution should be sent for a long term, not to an ordinary reformatory, but to one established for this particular purpose. His object in proposing this was to protect men from blackmail. If the man could set up that the girl under 16 was a prostitute he could save himself from a prosecution by threatening her with a reformatory. The procedure would seem very foul and tortuous altogether. Someone suggested that men also might be sent to reformatories, but Mr. Samuel replied, "The cases of men and of women are not analogous." That is probably a comfortable thought for some men.

TWO YEARS' HARD LABOUR FOR COMMUNICATING THE DISEASE.

Clause 2 gives power:—

To punish with imprisonment for two years' hard labour if convicted on indictment, or for six months on summary conviction, anyone suffering from venereal disease who has or solicits sexual intercourse.

No one shall be punished who had reasonable grounds to believe that he or she was free from venereal disease when the offence was committed.

Any person convicted of a sexual offence or *an offence under the Vagrancy Act* may be forced by direction of the Court to submit to such medical examination or tests as may be considered requisite to ascertain whether that person is suffering from venereal disease.

Any person who on examination under this section, or under compulsory detention in a prison or other institution received a written notice stating that he or she is suffering from venereal disease in a communicable form within three months before the commission of the alleged offence will be held to have been so suffering, unless the contrary is proved.

A woman may be examined by a woman doctor *if she so desires.* [*Poor cowed prisoners find it almost impossible to secure attention to their wishes from officials accustomed to disregard them.*]

We are strongly opposed to all the provisions of this clause.

It will be urged that we should support it because it will prevent men bringing loathsome disease home to their wives and children, and that the children, at any rate, must be protected. Our reply is that in the vast majority of cases wives will not bring actions against their husbands: they would be deterred by the penalty of publicity and stoppage of the family income, as well as by their affections, which often continue to flourish in most unlikely soil. In the rare case in which a wife might take proceedings, the husband would probably be able either to establish that he did not know what he was suffering from or that he thought he was cured, or he might even turn the table on his wife and say that he had caught the disease from her. If a husband brought an action against his wife, she would probably make that defence. What a painful and sordid picture the whole thing conjures up: is this what married life is in the twentieth century? In the case of persons who are not married, the woman, whether guilty or not, would be punished in almost every case in which an action were brought, for the prejudice of the court and of society in general is always against a woman who enters into a sexual relationship out of wedlock Only the thoroughly dissipated and cynical man would bring such an action against a prostitute, for anyone who possesses common sense and even a dash of honesty must realise that the vile trade of these unfortunate women causes them to run perpetual risk of infection, and that the only safe course is not to become one of their clients.

If passed into law, these provisions will either remain, partially or wholly a dead letter, only to be used against women who are not on good terms with the police or against whom some special complaint is made; or they will lead very shortly to the compulsory registration and examination of prostitutes, with all the sordid and degrading accompaniments of that system. This hideous alternative was advocated in the House by Sir George Greenwood, who asserted it to be "the only way to stamp out these diseases." The absurdity of his contention is sufficiently proved by the fact that in France and other countries, where vice, like education, is under the control of a Department of State, and where there is a complete system of compulsory registration and examination, venereal diseases are at least as common as they are here. Is it not largely in France that British soldiers have contracted these diseases?

HEAVIER PUNISHMENT.

Persons who use or allow premises to be used for "habitual postitution" the Bill would punish by a fine of £100 or three months' imprisonment for a first offence, £250 or six months for a second offence, and £500 or 12 months' imprisonment for a third offence. The punishment on a second conviction for soliciting would be imprisonment for one month."

Women should remember that soliciting is only punished as such when practised by women. The fines are larger than usual as compared with such terms of imprisonment. Only the well-to-do will be able to pay: the poor must go to prison.

Sir G. Greenwood characterised this part of the Bill as an "ignominious and rather contemptible method of harrying these women from pillar to post, which drives them into the arms of bullies." He said: "If you think it possible to stamp out prostitution, then have the courage to make it a criminal offence by itself." In this we agree with him, but we do not believe that prostitution will ever be stamped out by punishment and coercion whilst only the woman's part in it is punished and the conditions which produce prostitution remain.

Commander Wedgwood said in the debate: "I detest this sort of measure . . . so long as you have a rotten civilisation where women are driven on to the streets to make a living and where men think it right to go with them, you are bound to have these diseases."

We entirely agree: the economic causes of prostitition are always with us—low wages, shortage of opportunity and lack of training, the risks of sickness and unemployment, the harsh "pay your way or starve" system on which society is built—all these things claim their victims. And the first step from the legal path by the young heedless girl, who cannot think that harm will ever come to her of all people, is so mercilessly punished; the way of her transgression is made more hard than she can bear.

"My sister, a girl of 18, has been cruelly deceived by a soldier who has since gone to the front. The name she knew him by was not his own. She has become a mother, and is at present in a maternity home.

"Unfortunately my father feels the disgrace very keenly, and will have nothing to do with her." So runs a letter which reached us this morning.

A common story, but what next? The orphanages and babies' homes are overcrowded: even the Workhouse will not receive the child unless its mother remains with it. Respectable landladies do not want the unmarried mother. But the underworld is organised to receive her.

Shall the State take a hand in perfecting the underworld system; giving to the woman a certificate which permits her to sell her wares on the road to Hell, and to the man a false sense of security, which lulls his misgivings with the thought that this sort of thing is quite a matter of business?

Remember that once a woman becomes a part of the vice system every effort is used by those who organise it to prevent her escape. Do not allow the underworld system to be strengthened by State protection.

We urge women to insist on securing Womanhood Suffrage: the woman voter must be organised to prevent this thing.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

FROM THE LONDON LABOUR PARTY

TEACHERS DEMAND A WAR BONUS.

This is the story of the London Teachers' fight for a War Bonus, 1916-17. On October 21st, the London Teachers' Association Annual Conference resolved to ask the L.C.C. for a war bonus of 10s. a week for masters earning £235 a year or less, and for mistresses of £180 or less (with modifications above these scales), and 2s. 6d. a day for "supply" teachers. Their reasons were sound enough: the increased cost of living, and that the salaries were poor anyway.

WHAT THEY WERE OFFERED.

In due course the General Purposes Committee recommended that, subject to the teachers (and other employees of their class) proving to a Special Committee that they were suffering from especial hardship by reason of obligations to dependants, or contractual liabilities, they should be awarded a war bonus not exceeding 3s. a week, provided that their total salary would not thereby exceed £200 a year. After receiving a deputation from the disgusted teachers on February 5th, the General Purposes Committee practically withdrew the proposals at the Council meeting of February 6th, and the Education Committee (the real villains) will now see what sort of a scheme they can discover.

THE OFFER PULLED TO PIECES.

The "Special Committee" proposal was humiliating, and the whole scheme illusory, for, it is estimated that, assuming the full bonus given in each award, the money proposed to be voted by the Finance Committee would only have covered about 250 teachers out of 20,000! Such an offer would never have been made to a body of militant Trade Unionists of the skilled artizan class.

FOREIGN NOTES

Owing to shortage of coal the Swiss Gasworks are compelled to produce less gas. The Swiss Federal Council has authorised the administration of the gasworks to limit the use of gas for the public and to treble the price for gas used above the limited amount.

* * * *

"Le Journal du Peuple."—The great War pretends to kill "Prussian militarism"; perhaps it will kill also all other European militarism. Meanwhile it has created American militarism, of which the following is the programme:—Army of two million men—compulsory military service; training camps throughout the United States; rapid production of munitions and war materials; funds of two-and-a-half milliards of francs.

* * * *

The Swiss paper, "Die Familie," quotes Professor P. H. Schmidt, who remarked on the causes of the present catastrophe as follows: "The exploitation of raw materials in the oversea countries is one of the principal sources of power and wealth of the European industrial countries. Commerce and production, the investment of capital, political power and influence are their means, riches and the development of culture their aims. Since 1870 England has more than doubled the extension of its subject countries and influence. Since the beginning of the century the British Empire has been trebled. France also has subjected country after country in Asia and Africa since the last war. In France the desire for conquest was so great that the present Minister, Sembat, called it an illness—'Kilometritis.' This desire for extension of power and influence is by no means satisfied. Russia, which has already the greatest expanse of land on earth, has still an insatiable hunger for more territory. And yet the contrast between these Powers is now of no importance in comparison with the competition between Germany and England. The German colonies are but small when compared with the colonies of the other countries, but its economic power has surprisingly developed. An entire transformation of the world's' economic conditions seemed to be proclaimed by the irresistible advance of this new and powerful industrial State. It was victorious in its competition with regard to the construction of best ships, machines, the most exact apparatus and production of the finest dyes. In 1913 the German production of steel and iron was double that of England. In 1900 the English export of machines was 401 million marks; the German 183 million marks. In 1912 the English had increased to 674 and the German to 678 million marks. For the first time, in 1903 the German export to England had surpassed the English export to Germany; since then England has been worsted more and more. Between 1893 and 1912 Germany's general export trade increased by 12,599; the English diminished, since the increase shown was only 11,334. The consequences of a further peaceful course of this development seemed disastrous. . . . The real reason of the present slaughter is the antagonism of the economic Powers—the jealous hatred which was constantly increasing until there was no question of withdrawing from the fray."

THE SUFFRAGE SITUATION

CONFERENCE AT HOLBORN HALL

At the Conference of the London Labour Council for Adult Suffrage at Holborn Hall last Saturday, the chair was taken by Mr. Fred Bramley, N.A.F.T.A., who said that, notwithstanding the report of the Speaker's Conference, we should be guided by general principles of sound character. Our guiding principle should be equality of sexes, equality of voting power—one man one vote, one woman one vote. He pointed out that the recommendations issued from the Speaker's Conference are unsatisfactory, but they are not a Bill; and it is not yet certain that there will be a Bill. The Bill, if introduced, will be in the form rendered necessary by agitation outside the House of Commons.

One victory had already been won by women: the Home Office, in issuing licences to women as drivers for motor traffic, had stated that no special legislation was necessary, as the term "person" *included women.* The delegates laughed and applauded this point, for do we not know that for legislative purposes, and, indeed, wherever a privilege is concerned, the Courts have held that the term "person" does *not* include women.

The uncompromising note struck by the Chairman was echoed by all the speakers. Mr. Carter, N.U.R., said that there must be no selling of the pass: the people will have to push the Business Government of all the talents if we are to obtain what we want. Mrs. Cedar Paul, W.L.L., said that the speakers at the Manchester Labour Party Conference all thought that they were discussing the Adult Suffrage question for the last time. After the War, when all the vital questions of reconstruction were pressing upon us, we could not afford to be handicapped by still having to work for franchise reform: we must get the matter settled now.

Mr. Tom Richardson's speech we print on the front page.

The following resolution, which was moved on behalf of the Executive Committee by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst and seconded by Mr. Leahy (N.U.R.), was carried unanimously:—

"This Conference considers that the proposals contained in the report of the Speaker's Conference are unsatisfactory, and hereby declares that no franchise measure will be satisfactory to the working class unless it provides for:—

"(*a*) Complete Adult Suffrage for men and women both for Parliamentary and Local Government purposes.

"(*b*) The abolition of plural voting and of the university franchise.

"(*c*) The abolition of the pauper disqualification.

"(*d*) Continuous registration to secure that removal from one part of the country to another shall not disqualify.

"(*e*) Provisions to enable absentee voters to record their votes for their home constituency in the place where they happen to be at the time of the election.

This Conference urges the Government to introduce a measure embodying these provisions without delay.

The following resolution was moved by Mr. W. Carter, N.U.R., seconded by Mr. Tom Richardson, M.P., and supported by Mrs. Cedar Paul, and carried unanimously:—

"This Conference of Labour, Socialist, and Suffrage bodies calls for the speedy enactment of adult suffrage and of such measures of registration reform as shall secure that every adult man and woman shall be continuously enfranchised, and also demands that every adult man and woman shall be eligible for all elective offices.

"This Conference further enters its protest against the compromise suggested by the Speaker's Conference, and declares that no settlement of the Suffrage question will be satisfactory which does not include full adult suffrage for all men and women."

The following resolutions were carried by large majorities:—

Moved by Mr. Carter: "This Conference urges that (a) all elections should be held on one day, which should be a public holiday; (b) returning officers' expenses should be paid out of monies provided by Parliament."

Moved by Mr. Hughes, N.U.C., seconded by Mr. A. A. Watts, B.S.P.: "This Conference declares that no system of election for Parliament and municipal bodies can be satisfactory which does not give opportunity to all parties to obtain representation in proportion to their voting strength, and urges the Government to include provision for proportional representation in the forthcoming Reform Bill, and, whilst welcoming the instalment of proportional representation recommended in the report of the Speaker's Conference, is strongly of opinion that to achieve the desired results each constituency should return at least five members, and that if any precautionary deposit is to be required of candidates, the number of 'votes polled' by each candidate must mean the number finally allocated to him, and not the number polled as first preferences."

Moved by Mr. J. A. Hobson, seconded by Miss Pankhurst: "This Conference urges that provisions for (a) establishing the Referendum, (b) the Initiative, and (c) the Recall, be inserted in the forthcoming Reform Bill."

Moved by Mr. Herbert Burrows, Shoreditch T.C.: "This Conference declares that any Franchise Bill which does not provide for complete adult suffrage for all men and all women of the requisite legal age should be strenuously opposed."

N.U.W.S.S. MEETING

On February 20th the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies held, for the first time since the War, a meeting in support of the cause for which it claims to exist. We wish that, with a "better late than never," we might accord our whole-hearted approval of this meeting; but, unfortunately, it was seriously marred by the spirit of compromise. Mrs. Fawcett, who presided, said that the terms on which a majority of the Speaker's Conference recommended the enfranchisement of women fell short of "the plain and simple equality" for which the National Union had always asked, but the Union considered the suggested compromise "so valuable" that it would urge the Government to introduce a Bill based on the lines of the Speaker's Conference. The National Union has thus publicly declared its readiness to abandon the claim for equal suffrage, but even more unfortunate are the efforts which it is making to induce other organisations to follow its lead. On February 17th, a Caxton Hall conference of suffrage organisations, convened through the instrumentality of the National Union, passed an ambiguous and compromising resolution. Its authors insist that the resolution debars those who signed it from asking the Government to introduce a broader measure than that suggested by the Speaker's Conference, but some of the signatories insist that it cannot bind them. We strongly deprecate such agreements and resolutions, and urge the maintenance of a firm, straightforward stand for the measure we desire and intend to secure—complete adult suffrage. And we would remind those of our friends who may be inclined to feel discouraged by the tendency to compromise displayed by the officials of certain organisations, that these organisations represent merely a middle-class clique, which is numerically insignificant as compared with the vast Labour organisations which are pledged to adult suffrage and with the mass of the people which recognises the justice of Votes for All. We must not attach too much importance to the fact that the National Union has offered to compromise at this juncture, for, despite Mrs. Fawcett's assertion that it has always asked for "plain and simple equality," the Union has again and again advocated a compromise. In the eighties it split the Suffrage movement by advocating the definite exclusion of married women from the franchise. We cannot think that those who are ever ready to bargain away the right to vote of this or that section of women have any clear and deep realisation of its value; but the political unwisdom of the compromisers is clearly evidenced by the fact that their effort is directed, not to secure that the opponents of Women's Suffrage shall agree to abate their hostility, but that its supporters shall recede from their principles and weaken their demands.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

THE DEMAND FOR TARIFFS

In July, 1916, Mr. Asquith appointed a Committee to consider the commercial and industrial policy to be adopted after the War. Assuming Mr. Asquith to be a staunch Free-trader, the appointment of a Committee to inquire into this subject in the height of the War fever was hardly a wise move, whilst the composition of the Committee was a most unhappy one from the Free Trade standpoint. As might have been anticipated, the Committee has recommended the establishment of a wider range of Customs duties, which would be reduced or remitted on the products and manufactures of the Empire, and would form the basis of commercial treaties with Allied and neutral Powers. We regret to state that, whilst the Irish representatives have prepared a separate statement, and even Sir F. E. Smith has some independent words of warning to give, certain Labour leaders have appended their signatures to the majority report. Are these men Socialists? If so, they should be building the possibility of the co-operative commonwealth, not advancing the interests of capitalism. If they are not Socialists, the Labour movement will in due time leave them behind.

NOT GOOD ENOUGH, MR. BARNES

If the forecasts of Mr. Barnes's proposed Pensions Bill are correct, the measure will prove unsatisfactory. It is said that allowances will be increased by 25 per cent., but they should be increased in accordance with the cost of living. It is also said that disability pensions are to be granted where the disability is due to "extraordinary exertion or exposure." Such a phrase at once opens up the way for dispute. We shall not be satisfied until the naval and military authorities take full responsibility for every man passed for service who is invalided out of the service.

EMPLOYERS TO ENCOURAGE SEX SPIRIT

An American journalist, Mr. Will Irving, who has visited this country to study labour in War time, has been giving his impressions in the "Saturday Evening Post." He mentions a circular letter sent out by "a certain group of employers in the engineering trades in which attention was called to the reduction of labour costs since women were employed, and in which it was suggested that "a little careful organisation and the encouragement of a sex spirit among women workers might forestall" the men who will come back from the War demanding their old jobs.

C.E. WORK

The seven young women charged at the London Munitions Tribunal with refusing to work on poisonous C.E. protested that they ought to be provided with masks. Official Press notices have frequently stated that owing to the fact that masks, gloves, respirators, and overalls *are supplied* to protect the workers in filling factories, the risk of contracting disease is so far reduced that only the exceptionally constituted individual is likely to suffer. In spite of such reassuring statements, deaths and cases of serious illness from T.N.T. and other poisoning are constantly occurring, and not only are women still complaining that masks and respirators are not supplied, but factory doctors are reported at inquests as saying that the masks are useless. In this particular case the works manager said: "Doctors have argued against the use of respirators, gloves, and veils for C.E. work, because they result in more dermatatis than without." The matter calls for a statement from the Ministry of Munitions. Have the masks, respirators, gloves, etc., any protective effect? If they have, why are they not supplied? If they are useless, why are official notices sent out assuring the public that women can enter the filling factories without risk because these precautionary appliances are provided? Whenever cases of industrial poisoning occur, whether in the filling factories, the potteries, or elsewhere, and whenever there is an agitation to stop the use of preparations which are poisonous to the workers, those who desire to maintain things as they are invariably charge the workers with not wearing the precautionary appliances. Such arguments will in future be discounted.

MRS. WALKER AND THE FOOD CONTROLLER

Mrs. Walker, W.S.F., a Poplar docker's wife, has been helping the Food Controller to fix the price of potatoes. Wearied of the conflicting statements of Members of the Government, and finding that whilst on Friday she paid for potatoes 6d. for 4lbs., and that on Saturday the price rose to 8d. for 4lbs., Mrs. Walker wrote to Lord Devonport telling him that he ought to fix the maximum retail price at a penny a pound, but charging him that on no account must he make it more than 1½d. On Friday she opened her evening paper and found that Lord Devonport had fixed the price at 1½d. a pound.

SHIRTMAKERS GAIN A HALFPENNY

The Trade Board established under the Trade Boards Act, 1909, for the shirtmaking trade have given notice that they have varied the minimum rates of wages fixed by them on July 5th for female workers, other than home workers, from 3½d. to 4d. an hour, and for female home workers from 3½d. to 4d. an hour. Certain addition have also been made to the pay of learners, varying from 8d. to 1s. 9d. per week. The variations take effect from the 12th inst.

WHY NOT MORE WOMEN FACTORY INSPECTORS?

In receiving a deputation from the Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Union Congress on February 13th, the Home Secretary, Sir George Cave, defended the cutting down of the staff of factory inspectors on the ground that it is "difficult in these days to find suitable men." Then why not employ more women?

You must not miss these!!

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C. H. NORMAN'S DIARY—(Continued from Front Page).

June 9th.—Forcibly fed through mouth: very painful, as the tube was too big for my throat. Ate a little dinner. Hunger strike suspended. Commandant jeered at me while in strait jacket; announcing his intention of reporting me for another court-martial. Spat blood in night.

June 10th.—Not at all well, so decided to eat for present, so as to be well for court-martial. Was told *sub rosa* Pater had been and was refused admission.

June 11th.—Commandant told me I would be ordered to attend military parade on Monday. Said he did not believe any woman would speak to me.

June 12th.—Ordered to parade, and refused.

June 13th.—Taken before Commandant for refusing to parade. A horrible scene ensued in presence of three n.-c.os. Commandant furious at some publication in paper about his evil deeds. He called me a coward, a swine, a beast, a bloody cur, a sham conscientious objector, and accused me of mean sneaking bribery and sending out lying letters. I told him that the statements about my treatment were true, and he would not dare say these things were we on equal terms. The measure of his courage was to abuse the helpless in his power. Commandant talked like an inebriated fishwife the whole time. Finally wound up by repeating that I was a beast, and saying he would report me G.O.C. and War Office. He admitted spitting, but denied "in my face," which I never said.

June 14th.—Commandant came in in state of indignation to tell me that Army Council had reduced my sentence to 112 days; but expressed the hope that I should have another court-martial, which would send me away for a heavy punishment. Returned with Visiting Officer, who asked me whether I had any complaint. I told him about strait jacket, forcible feeding, and being spat at. Commandant admitted spitting, but denied in my face (which I have never said)), saying one could not help spitting after having to speak to such a nauseous creature as me. Took all meals to-day for first time since out of hospital.

June 16th.—Nothing fresh; but had half-an-hour's exercise first time for a fortnight., Various attempts made to persuade me to fall into line. Still spitting a little blood, and have internal pain.

June 18th.—Visiting Officer told me I had been reported for court-martial. I explained my position; and he stated I should have an opportunity of making my defence on the taking of the summary of evidence to-morrow. Was told Commandant had been removed; so publication of my sufferings has had one good result.

(Signed) C. H. NORMAN.

"TAKE THE PLACE OF A MAN"

This reply of an obscure countrywoman to letters urging her to come forward and "take the place of a man," &c., has been placed in my hands: perhaps it may interest your readers.

"I am an Internationalist, and regard this War as the greatest calamity and most colossal mistake ever perpetrated by a blind section of mankind. War can never decide questions of right and wrong, which remain unsolved after the last man has been killed.

"It is illogical, barbarous, out-worn and ineffective, wasteful in every way, leaving nothing but misery and desolation in its trail. I regard the Germans as our neighbours and brothers; the shameful cruelty of their super-war methods is due to the military domination they have yet to shake off, and from which they as a nation suffer also. We cannot remedy this colossal evil by killing mixed masses of their men, many of whom resemble our own; neither can they destroy what they describe as English greed, stupidity, pride and hypocrisy by the same means. It is impossible.

"In education, which will tend to encourage the individual to think for himself, lies the real hope for mankind. The men of the future will surely realise, perhaps by a more correct calculation of values, that war does not pay—and the women may see how unsatisfactory it is to be constantly mending what is deliberately broken; or to labour in the making of material to destroy the husbands and sons of other women;—who are helping their men in the same way to kill or mutilate our best beloved.

"They will also see that 'the land' is not woman's work, but was given to Adam, and to his sons it still belongs.

"The daughters of Eve inherit the burden and privilege of bearing and raising the children, girls and boys, who must have fair play, with air and space in which to develop freely, with no weight of work placed on their shoulders, until they are strong enough to bear it.

"The strong young men of those days will cultivate the earth and produce grain and fruit in quantity and quality surpassing anything yet seen. There will be no need to sacrifice animals to obtain for ourselves the nourishment they have extracted from their food: the same source of supply is available for us: the earth is equal to any demand—intelligent labour alone is needed. 'They shall eat the fruit of their labours.' This is my answer to your repeated suggestions that my life shall be ordered on the plan of the newspapers of to-day. A woman's own best conception of her duty is the surest guide, whether it be to nurse the wounded or to help the soldiers in any way she can or may—or to live her normal life and do the thing that's nearest; above all helping by word and deed to hold up that higher ideal of life and conduct which shall lead to a world without war—when swords shall be beaten into ploughshares, and the earth shall yield her increase."

MARY CROSLAND TAYLOR.

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PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

February 13th.—Mr. King asked whether the Russian Government had now replied to the British Government's inquiry as to what it should do with Russian subjects of military age.

Lord Robert Cecil replied that the Russian Government had "expressed its willingness to conclude an agreement," which "is at present being considered by the competent Departments."

Is Parliament to be consulted? No Department is competent to override the law of the land!

WHY NOT WOMEN JURORS?

Mr. Turton announced that the Attorney-General was consulting the Home Secretary as to whether farmers may be absolved from jury service.

May women take their places?

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The price of tea Mr. Flavin stated to have increased by over threepence in the pound during the last three weeks. Captain Bathurst stated that the Food Controller knew of no justification of such an increase, and would investigate the matter.

INDUSTRIAL CONSCRIPTION.

Mr. Tyson Wilson disclosed the fact that bricklayers, carpenters, painters, and plumbers who joined the Royal Engineers and passed the trade test have been transferred to the Infantry Works Company owing to physical unfitness. Although they are working at their respective trades, they received only twopence per hour in addition to the shilling per day Army pay. Now, even the beggarly twopence is stopped. Mr. Wilson pointed out that these men were doing contractors' work!

Mr. Forster merely replied that since January 1st working pay has ceased in Infantry Works Companies.

Will the Labour Party stand this? It justifies all the worst predictions of industrial exploitation which it was feared would result from conscription.

THE EAST LONDON EXPLOSION.

In reply to Colonel Yate, the Parliamenrary Secretary to the Ministry of Munitions (Sir Worthington Evans) stated that an investigation was taking place into the East London explosion. He did not agree, as Colonel Yate declared, that too great an accumulation of dangerous explosives had been kept in a thickly populated district. Colonel Yate said that explosions in Ayrshire ought to have warned the Government.

ARMY SCANDALS.

Captain Burgoyne indignantly protested against the placing of Lieutenant-Colonel Norris, D.S.O., on the unemployed list because he had reported to the proper authorities smoking on board a transport discharging shells and cordite at a French port, and because he had reported the discourteous treatment by the men of a German officer who was a prisoner of war. The punishment was based on the report of a junior officer. Mr. Macpherson refused the holding of a Court of Inquiry. Mr. Swift MacNeill disclosed the fact that Colonel Allett, whose only military service was participation in the illegal raid on Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington's house after the murder of her husband, was mentioned in despatches for distinguished conduct in Dublin.

WHY NOT MAKE USE OF M.P.s?

Mr. Bonar Law said that the War Cabinet secretariat consists of a secretary and ten assistants at a cost of £13,964. These patriots do not give their services for nothing. Members of Parliament only cost £400 a year each: why not give some of the work to them?

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

The case of the old-age pensioner was again referred to. Mr. Jonathan Samuel urged that where old-age pensioners obtain house and coal free from workmen's organisations to which they belong, such as the Durham Miners, and employees, the pension should not be reduced on that account. Mr. Yeo and Mr. Chancellor pleaded that the increase of 2s. 6d. a week should be granted to all pensioners without special inquiries being instituted. Mr. Hogge asked whether old people have a right of appeal if the pension is refused.

Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Hayes Fisher refused all concessions.

The workers' grandparents receive little consideration.

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF EDUCATION.

The President of the Board of Education (Mr. Fisher) said he was fully alive to the need for improving the elementary schools, and for facilitating access to the universities, and that proposals for these purposes, among others, were under consideration, and would be submitted to the House.

This is a vitally important matter to us all. We anxiously await the scheme.

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Sir Edward Carson said it was not satisfactory that officers who contract pulmonary tuberculosis on active service should be put on half-pay if not cured in ninety-one days. Mr. Hogge said that men under the same conditions lose all their pay after ninety-one days.

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Mr. Barnes introduced a simple little Bill providing that the administrative expenses (including the 1s. an hour to those who lose wages by attendance at committees) shall be defrayed half by the county borough or urban district council in which area the local War Pensions Committee is situated and half by Parliament. Districts where the population is between twenty and fifty thousand, and the Council so desires, may apply to the Pensions Minister for a separate local committee. The Bill gives power to trustees of funds providing for disabled soldiers and sailors and relatives some specific aid now given by the State to apply the funds to some other form of assistance by order of the Minister of Pensions.

On the motion for the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates, neither Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. Gordon Hewart (the Solicitor-General), nor Mr. Winfrey (the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Agriculture), who, strangely enough, was also put up as an apologist for the Treasury, was able to give a clear explanation in reply to questions. Mr. Dillon, Mr. Herbert Samuel, and Mr. Swift MacNeill protested against the fact that the Financial Secretary is not a member of the House of Commons, and therefore cannot be directly questioned in the House. Mr. Dillon said that if it was necessary to engage a skilled financier he ought to be subordinate to the Financial Secretary, who ought to be in the House.

THE WAR CABINET.

A motion was made to pay £3,075 for salaries to the War Cabinet. This money is ostensibly to be paid to Lord Milner and Mr. Henderson. In reality it goes into the general pool from which Cabinet Ministers draw their salaries, and in regard to which many searching questions were asked, but remained unanswered.

Mr. Swift MacNeill, Parliament's most vigilant guardian of the Constitution, at once rose to point out that Cabinet Ministers are unknown to law, and that only on rare occasions has anyone been invited to join the Cabinet except as holder of a definite office. Then he has invariably served without fees, and the rule has been that he must have had previous Cabinet experience. At the zenith of his power the Duke of Wellington was invited to join the Cabinet in this way, but objection was immediately taken on the ground that he had not had this experience, but, said Mr. MacNeill: "The Duke of Wellington was nowhere as compared with the great and illustrious Lord Milner." He further complained that not being in charge of one of the Departments of State, Lord Milner and Mr. Henderson had no offices whereby they could be held responsible to Parliament for the salaries they drew.

Mr. Pringle pointed out that there are three existing offices to which salaries but no duties are attached: the holders of these offices are the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Lord Privy Seal, and the Paymaster General. If Lord Milner and Mr. Henderson had occupied two of these posts, they might have been members of the War Cabinet without extra cost to the nation. Members wished to know what the present holders of these sinecures are doing.

Mr. Bonar Law was obviously embarrassed by this criticism, and displayed much irritation. At one point he appealed to the House "to come to a decision," adding "it is quite obvious we shall not come to an agreement." He began by declaring that the Government regarded the constitution of the War Cabinet as vital, and that it was prepared to stake its existence upon it. Ministers were prepared to face a vote of censure at any time. Later he spoke with less heat, and agreed to give an explanation of the co-ordinating system of the Government. He protested that in War, as at other times, "a man who is doing work for the State should be paid by the State adequately for the work he is doing."

Mr. Hogge replied that "the average man who is winning the War is paid 1s. 8d. a day in the Navy and 1s. in the Army. He had heard that Lord Milner had a suite of offices in a large hotel. Was this the headquarters of the War Cabinet, or merely Lord Milner's private office?

"LET NOT THY LEFT HAND KNOW."

Sir Walter Essex commented on the snobbery displayed by rich members of the Government, who had refused to accept their salaries, and whose names had been read out in the House.

COPYING GERMAN SUBSIDIES.

£41,000 of the people's money was voted, amid protests, for the British-Italian Corporation, which has been formed to encourage British trade with Italy. Mr. G. Roberts, the Labour member who has become Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, admitted that he knew little or nothing about the matter. Mr. Baldwin, the Parliamentary representative of the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said that secrecy must be maintained until after the War, because our Allies were also concerned in the business, which has been plainly shown to be a private capitalist venture subsidised by Government funds.

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£120,000 was voted for the Secret Service. Mr. Pringle pointed out that for the whole of 1915-16 only £150,000 was voted for this purpose, and that already for 1916-17 there has been £620,000. He protested against the employment of "agents-provocateurs."

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Mr. Dillon urged that the dismissal of the Dublin police-constable last December be reconsidered. He said that the men of the Dublin police force are discontented, and he thought rightly so. Mr. Duke protested against the mention of police grievances. He appeared to imagine that grievances do not exist until they are mentioned.

ADMIRALTY ALLOWANCES.

February 14th.—Sir Kinloch-Cooke pointed out that Royal dockyard pensioners are getting from 10s. to £1 a week after from 25 to 40 years' service, and asked for an increase of 2s. 6d. a week for them. Dr. Macnamara refused.

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Mr. Hogge and Mr. McCallum Scott heckled Dr. Macnamara in regard to naval separation allowances, and disclosed the fact that men in certain grades of the Navy are prohibited from allotting more than a certain amount of their pay to their families, and that whilst the maximum allowance to a soldier's mother in the London area is 15s. a week, the maximum allowance to the mothers of sailors in the lowest rating is only 9s. 6d. in London.

BOYS IN THE ARMY.

Mr. Macpherson said that the discharge of boys who have enlisted under military age "is not now authorised unless under very exceptional circumstances."

Mr. O'Shaughnessy said that the discharge of Maurice Quinlan, aged 17, was refused, and that he is now in a lunatic asylum.

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Mr. Byrne stated that men interned for participating in the Irish Rebellion are now compulsorily serving in the Army because of previous residence in England. Mr. Macpherson hastened to explain that these men may now be discharged unless willing to serve!

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Mr. Forster informed the House that the output and pay of the women carpenters sent over to France to build Army huts for contractor W. G. Tarrant, Byfleet, Surrey, is about half that of men!

IS PROHIBITION COMING?

Mr. Leif Jones appealed for the prohibition of intoxicating drink. He said that £200,000,000 had been spent on drink in 1916, that this was by far the greatest expenditure on record, and at least £18,000,000 more than that in 1915. As 140,000,000 gallons of spirits are stored, he saw no justification for continuing to produce it. In spite of all the efforts that are being made he believed that we should produce less food than last year, less food would be imported, one-fifth of the cereals consumed in this country was used in making beer.

Four members of the present Government had signed an appeal for prohibition before they took office.

Mr. Arthur Sherwell argued for State purchase instead of prohibition, urging that working men regard beer as a food. He said that the Liquor Control Board ought to have taken the sale of drink out of the hands of men who had a pecuniary inducement to sell as much as possible.

The Home Secretary, Sir G. Cave, said that the Government would maintain the food supply, and that as it had asked the people to sacrifice by limiting the consumption of certain food it would ask them to make what he implied to be the greater sacrifice of limiting the beer and spirits if need be.

Mr. Runciman, who showed no sign of adopting this policy when President of the Board of Trade came out as an advocate of prohibition, saying that necessity would point to the suspension of manufacture, and that no harm but much good would come from prohibiting the sale of drink. But he did not know whether the public would stand it.

Strange that the people are supposed to love their beer more dearly than their liberties or the lives of their sons!

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Sir Leo Chiozza Money, who has now joined the Ministry of Shipping Control, made a very dull speech, taking care to give away no information.

BRITISH ALIENS.

Mr. King spoke most feelingly of the British wives of aliens who "for two and a-half years have suffered the hardships and restrictions of the alien enemy within our gates," and the children branded as enemies and helping to make up the 20,000 or more in London, whom Mr. Joynson Hicks had represented as a danger to the country.

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The Attorney-General moved the Second Reading of a Bill to suspend Grand Juries during the War. The function of the Grand Jury, namely, to decide whether a case shall be sent for trial, is to be transferred to the judge who will subsequently try the case.

We think this a mistake, as it will tend to prejudice the judge against the prisoner.

SUGAR.

February 15th.—Mr. Anderson urged that if 1lb. of sugar is what the Food Controller thinks every person entitled to he ought to see that everyone is able to get it!

Captain Bathurst said that the Food Controller does not think the sale of sugar should be made conditional on the purchase of any particular article, and promised to inquire into cases where this is done.

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Mr. Hudson stated that pending the decision of the Munitions Tribunal, which turned out to be in his favour, a workman named Hallam lost £3 19s. 7d. in wages, the question was, who should pay that sum to Hallam? He received no reply.

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Sir G. Cave stated that the number of conscientious objectors is 3,025, 2,297 have been, or will be offered release from prison on condition that they perform work of national importance.

THE GOVERNMENT WOOL MONOPOLY.

On the second reading of the Consolidated Fund, Mr. Sherwell, Mr. Theodore Taylor, and Sir W. Priestly protested against the Government control of the wool industry and the commandeering of British, Australian, and New Zealand wool. Mr. Sherwell declared that the Government had inflated prices against itself, whilst Mr. Taylor complained that the Government insisted upon wool being put to unpractical uses, and also that prices were kept secret, and that some men could buy Government wool more cheaply than others. Mr. Ellis Davies also complained that the farmers were unequally treated. All the critics agreed that the Government has grossly mismanaged the business, and that its officials have no technical knowledge.

Much of the criticism may be apt, but it must be remembered that it is made by private business men, who believe their individual interests to be threatened. Mr. Foster, speaking for the War Office, said that in using the wool the Army must be considered first, the export trade next, and the needs of the home population last of all. This is the worst spirit in which to inaugurate experiments in State Socialism!

THE NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME.

Mr. W. C. Anderson asked a number of questions in regard to the Ministry of National Service Bill, and Mr. Neville Chamberlain's National Service Scheme. Mr. Anderson quoted "The Globe," which declared that the scheme "would manage to wreck voluntarism, which is perhaps what some of its friends really want." Mr. Henderson, as usual, reminded all critics that "we are at War" and protested: "If we are going to be bound by pledges made under circumstances entirely different . . . . our position becomes absolutely impossible." If, in his view, the need for industrial conscription should come, he would ask for release from his pledges which bound him to oppose industrial conscription.

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£25,000 was voted for Government hospitality.

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

A supplementary sum of £100,915 was voted for the Ministry of Labour. Mr. Hogge said that all the work of the Ministry of Labour was being done before its creation, and that all that the country had got for the expenditure of an additional £3,200 was a few speeches from the Minister of Labour. Mr. Pringle urged that a statement as to the policy of his Department ought to have been made by the Labour Minister, who, like the Prime Minister, evidently prefers making speeches to public meetings than to Parliament. Perhaps this is because audiences at public meetings are not allowed to ask him awkward questions.

Mr. Tyson Wilson and others declared it unnecessary that Mr. Shackleton, an ex-Labour M.P., should have the salary of £1,000 which he had as an Insurance Commissioner raised to £1,500 a year, now that he has been made Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Labour.

• • • •

February 19th.—Mr. W. Thorne alleged that the employés of Messrs. Kearley and Tonge, Ltd., when purchasing a half-pound of tea from the firm can buy six pounds of sugar.

Captain Bathurst replied that since October the employés of this firm have not been allowed more than three pounds of sugar a week. Since it is the Food Controller's firm, the matter ought to be cleared up.

• • • •

Mr. Bonar Law announced that the Minority Report on the Dardanelles Commission will be published; but not the evidence!

Is it too incriminating?

• • • •

The number of Ministers of the Crown, Mr. Bonar Law stated, is 34; the total amount of the salaries £133,500. Nearly £4,000 a year each! Economy!!

• • • •

Mr. Hayes Fisher said that revised instructions will be issued with reference to Workhouse rations, since the bread allowance is 8 lbs. weekly, compared with 4 lbs. allowed to other persons.

The variety of diet for Workhouse inmates cannot be compared with that of the general public. What are the Workhouse inmates to have in exchange for the bread?

• • • •

Treatment of Tuberculosis special grant of £27,000 was sharply criticised by Mr. Booth as inadequate, for in addition to the long waiting list of patients entitled to be treated, local authorities were doing the work that the Government had undertaken to do by the Insurance Act, and insured persons are obliged to pay by their weekly contributions and also in their rates.

THE
WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

To secure Human Suffrage, namely, a Vote for every Woman and Man of full age, and to win Social and Economic Freedom for the People.

Entrance Fee ... ... 1d.

Minimum Subscription... 1d. a month

I wish to become a Member of the W.S.F. and enclose.....subscription and entrance fee for.....months.

***Name*.....**

***Address*.....**

WHAT'S ON?

W.S.F. FIXTURES

OUTDOOR

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd.
Lewisham Market Place, 2 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
Poplar Women's Hall, 5 p.m., Sale.
Poplar Women's Hall, 7.30 p.m., At Home.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24th.
Grundy Street, 12 (noon), Miss Price.
Fire Station (opposite Pitfield Street, Hoxton), 12.30 p.m., Mrs. Boyce, Miss Beamish.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25th.
Osborn Street, Whitechapel, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Forest Gate Station, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Walker.
Morpeth Street, Green Street, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Hyde Park, 3 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
Victoria Park, 3 p.m., Peace Meeting.
Bow Women's Hall, 6 p.m., Public Meeting.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26th.
Armagh Road, Bow, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27th.
Appian Road, Bow, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Ranwell Street, Bow, 2 p.m., Miss Price.
Wright's Road, Bow, 3 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28th.
Ruston Street, Monier Road, Bow, 11.30 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
THURSDAY, MARCH 1st.
Cardigan Road, Bow, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Mr. Cant (B.S.P.).
FRIDAY, MARCH 2nd.
Cardigan Road and Tredegar Road, 12 (noon), Mrs. Walker.
SATURDAY, MARCH 3rd.
Cardigan Road, Roman Road, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Armagh Street, Roman Road, 3 p.m., Rev. Chalmers, Mrs. Boyce.
Ford Street, Roman Road, 2.30 p.m., Mrs. Walker, Miss Price.
SUNDAY, MARCH 4th.
Hyde Park, 3 p.m., Mrs. Cressall.
Victoria Park, 3 p.m., Peace Meeting.
Bow Women's Hall, 6 p.m., Public Meeting.

INDOOR

CHANDOS HALL "AT HOME," 21a Maiden Lane (off Bedford Street, Strand). On February 24th, at 3.30 p.m., Miss Theodora Wilson Wilson, "Alternatives"; Mr. R. E. Roper, M.A., M.Ed., "Discipline and Punishment." Chair, Mrs. Bouvier. March 3rd, Mrs. K. Outhwaite, "The Restoration of the Land"; Mr. E. J. Smith, "Can Peace be Enforced?" Chair, Miss Norah Smyth.

BOW WOMEN'S HALL, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow.—To-morrow (Sunday), 6 p.m., Mr. J. Arnall. Chair, Mrs. Boyce. March 4th, Mr. Edmund Fuller, "Within Prison Walls"; Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, "The Present Outlook." Miss Dorothy Matthews will give a recital from Oscar Wilde's "Ballad of Reading Gaol."

An entertainment in aid of the "Mothers' Arms," to-day (Saturday), at 8 p.m., has been kindly arranged by Nurse Hebbes and friends. Admission by programme, 3d. and 6d.

Friends and supporters will be pleased to hear that improved heating arrangements have been made at the Bow Women's Hall.

POPLAR WOMEN'S HALL, 20 Railway St., Poplar (opposite South Bromley Station, N.L.R.).—Wednesday, February 28th, at 8.15 p.m., Mr. John Scurr will lecture.
Admission free. All are welcome!

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

To-morrow, Sunday, 8.15 p.m., at Kingsley Hall, Bow, Miss Theodora Wilson Wilson will speak. Bar and open discussion 9.30 p.m.

All Societies are cordially invited to send in notices of forthcoming events for our "What's On" column. Fee, 1d. per word.

PEACE MEETING
Victoria Park, To-Morrow
SUNDAY, 3 p.m.

Speaker, Miss PRICE.
Chair, Miss LYNCH.

PEACE DEMONSTRATION POSTPONED FROM APRIL 1st TILL SUNDAY, APRIL 15th.

Deal with our Advertisers, and mention the "Dreadnought."

W.S.F. BRANCHES

ARE YOU AN ACTIVE WORKING MEMBER?

LONDON

BARKING.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Langford, Ailsa Craig, 97 Essex Road.

BOW.—400 Old Ford Road, E. Hon. Secretary: Miss Stevens. Branch meetings will be held every second and fourth Monday. Next meeting, February 26th, at 8 p.m. DREADNOUGHT sales week ending February 17th, 655. Miss O'Brien, 174; Miss Harriet, 131; Mrs. Holloway, 126; Miss Beamish, 47; Mrs. Greer, 42; Miss Price, 24; general, 111.

BROMLEY.—53 St. Leonard's Street. Hon. Secs.: Mrs. Lansbury, Mrs. Wood.

CANNING TOWN.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Parsons, 94 Ravenscroft Road.

ENFIELD AND EDMONTON.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Beavis, 171 Church Street, Lower Edmonton.

LEYTON.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hart, 73 Calderon Road. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 52.

POPLAR.—Hon. Sec.: Miss E. Lagsding, 20 Railway Street. DREADNOUGHTS sold, per Mrs. Shlette, 78

TIDAL BASIN.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Drake, 49 Crediton Road. DREADNOUGHT sales, average, 36.

ST. PANCRAS.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Redgrove, B.S.P. Hall, 44 Malden Road, Kentish Town. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 13.

WILLESDEN.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Sheppard, 141 Villiers Road. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 12.

PROVINCES.

BIRMINGHAM.—Hon. Sec.: Miss A .F. Boden, 10 Sandhurst Road, Moseley. Four fortnightly lectures will be held in Stirchley Institute at 7.30 p.m.

BRADFORD.—Hon. Sec.: Miss McHale, 12 Airedale College Terrace. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 26.

BRYNMAWR AND NANTYGLO.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hayward, Coedcae, Garn Fack.

BURNLEY.—Hon. Sec. pro tem.; Mrs. Mortimer Holden, The Nurseries, Accrington.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Faulkner, 14 Hilda Terrace, South Pelaw, Chester-le-Street.

CHOPWELL.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Bell, 62 Forth Street. Fortnightly meetings are to be held to discuss such books as "Woman and Economics," "Woman and Labour," etc. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 12.

CORNSAY AND QUEBEC.—Hon. Sec. pro tem.: Miss Ellis, Dundalk House, Neville's Cross. Branch meeting, Monday, at 197 High Street, Cornsay. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 30.

DONCASTER.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Kent, 32 St. Sepulchre Gate.

DURHAM.—Hon. Sec.: Miss C. Ellis, Dundalk House, Neville's Cross.

FERRYHILL.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Ruby Stoddart, 12 Hackworth Street, Dean Bank. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 12.

HUDDERSFIELD, ROTHERHAM, WAKEFIELD.—Organiser: Miss Stephen, c/o Mrs. Gee, 15 Springwood Terrace, Huddersfield.

LEEDS.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hunter, 7 Sugdenfold, Armley. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 84.

LEICESTER.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hill, 12 Sweetbriar Road.

MANCHESTER.—Hon. Sec.: Miss F. Wassilewski, 18 Broughton Street, N. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 26.

MEDOMSLEY.—Hon. Sec.: Tom Orr, Esq., 6 Derwent Cottages, Durham. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 24.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Hon. Sec.: Mr. Nicholson, 19 Alexandra Road, North Heaton.

PORTSMOUTH.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Clarges, 200 Westfield Road, E. Southsea. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 8.

SHEFFIELD.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Chandler, 23 Abbey Lane, Woodseats. Members' meetings are held alternate Thursdays, at 7.30 p.m., Trades Hall, Charles Street. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 104.

SOUTHAMPTON.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Samuel, 33 Mount Street. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 12.

YORK.—Sec.: Mrs. Hall, 43 Lowther Street. On Wednesday, 14th February, a branch of the W.S.F. was formed in York. The meeting which was held in the I.L.P. Rooms, Micklegate, was addressed by Miss Stephen, the Yorkshire organiser. Mrs. Hall was appointed secretary, and Mr. C. Rich president. Both are energetic workers, so that the York Branch starts scratch. Intending members should attend the next meeting which will be held in the I.L.P. Rooms on Wednesday, 28th February, at 7.30 p.m.

SCOTLAND.

GLASGOW.—Hon. Sec.: Lachlan Smith, Esq., 126 Bothwell Street.

ELECTORAL REFORM

In the House of Commons on Tuesday, February 20th, Mr. Bonar Law said:

"It is clear that the House ought to have an early opportunity of deciding what action should be taken in connection with the report of the conference over which you, Sir, presided. After endeavouring to ascertain by unofficial inquiries what course would be most acceptable to the House, the Government have come to the conclusion that the best method of procedure would be that a resolution or resolutions embodying its decisions should be moved on behalf of the conference. If a motion to that effect is placed upon the Order Paper the Government will give an early opportunity for its discussion."

Dear Miss Pankhurst,—It seems to me that you are perfectly right with regard to "no compromise" on the Woman Adult Suffrage question. I belong to another Suffrage Society, but I enclose £1 1s. for your "No Compromise" Campaign, and wish it all success.

Yours sincerely,
MARY WILLOCK.

VICTORIA PARK PEACE MEETING

On Sunday, February 18th, a Peace meeting was held in Victoria Park. There was a good deal of organised opposition, and while Mr. Fowler Shone was speaking this reached its height; the platform was rushed and there was considerable roughness used.

We appeal to those who are interested in the Peace Movement to support these meetings. The presence of a body of sympathisers serves to keep in check the more thoughtless elements of the crowd and make it impossible for the few who are consistently hostile to disorganise meetings.

DEPUTATION TO ADMIRALTY

On Monday, February 19th, Dr. Macnamara received at the Admiralty a deputation from the League of Rights for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives. Dr. Macnamara promised certain concessions, and agreed that a number of points should be re-considered.

Donations to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, or to the Hon. Financial Secretary, Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E. All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

GENERAL FUND.—Mrs. Willock, £1 1s.; Miss Norah C. Morrison, 5s.; Miss L. Cutten (monthly), 5s.; W. M. Spriggs, Esq., 2s. 6d. COLLECTIONS: Mrs. Lyon, Miss Matthews and others, Golder's Green Institute, per Miss S. Pankhurst, £1 9s.; Mrs. Walker (two), £2 4s.; Bow General Meeting, 4s. 8½d.; Sunday Meeting, 3s.; Miss Manicom, 3s.; (Piano) per Miss Lagsding, Poplar Women's Hall, 1s. 5½d.

"DREADNOUGHT" FUND.—A. S. Coombes, Esq., 5s.; Portsmouth I.L.P., 5s.; Teddy the Flower Seller, 6d.

LIBEL ACTION GUARANTEE FUND.—A. S. Coombes, Esq., 6s.; Croydon I.L.P., 6s.; Mr. and Mrs. Harris, 4s.; M. H. W. (Liverpool), 2s. 6d.; A. S. Cable, 2s. 6d.

MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Miss L. Violet Hodgkin, £10; Miss Putnam, £5; Mrs. Doran, £5; Mr. and Mrs. Sadd Brown (monthly), £3; Edward Holroyd, Esq., £2 2s.; per Miss Weir (monthly), £1 10s.; Mrs. Joy, £1; Mr. Carter, £1 1s.; Mrs. A. Potter, £1; Mrs. Edward Hecht, £1 1s.; Mrs. H. George Roberts, £1; J. Kennedy, Esq., £1; Mrs. Rayment, £1; Lady Courtney, £1; Nurse Hebbes (weekly), 12s.; Baby Handley Read, 10s. 6d.; J. H. Ford, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Henderson, 10s.; Mrs. Dawson Clark, 10s.; Miss Mary Payne, 10s.; Mrs. Appleyard, 10s.; A. S. Coombes, Esq., 10s.; Mrs. Emily Allchin, 10s.; Colonel Alfred L. Lane, 10s.; Mrs. Grieve, 10s.; Miss R. Hancock, 10s.; Miss Suttell, 10s.; Mrs. Gillies, 7s.; Mrs. Hugh C. Mason (per Mrs. Walker), 5s.; Mrs. A. M. Burton, 5s.; A. Roberts, Esq., 5s.; Mrs. E. M. Morrison (monthly), 5s.; Mr. Stiebel (1s. weekly), 3s.; Mrs. Philip Leon, 3s.; Miss Griffith, 2s. 6d.; A. James (per Mrs. Walker), 2s.; W. H. Rooke, 1s. COLLECTIONS: L.S.A. Toolroom, £1 4s. 7d.; Misses E. Lagsding and L. Barker (Green's Yard), 12s. 7d.; Bromley sale of Clothes, 9s.; Misses K. Lagsding and T. Barker (Cubitt Town), 5s. 9d.; B. Greene, 1s. 11½d.; Felix Greene, 1s. 1½d.

CLOTHES, ETC.—Mrs. Clough, Mrs. Gillies, Anon, Mrs. G. Lyle Smyth, (cot) Mrs. Henderson.

MOTHERS AND BABIES

The Mothers' Arms, 438 Old Ford Road, Bow.

Day nursery from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Mondays, 2.30 p.m. Mothers and babies can consult Nurse at any time.

Dental Clinic Wednesday, March 7th, at 2.15 p.m.

Health Talks for Mothers are held the first and third Fridays in the month at 3 p.m., at the Mothers' Arms.

20 Railway Street, Poplar.
(opposite South Bromley Station).

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m. Nurse may be seen at any time.

53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley-by-Bow.

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Wednesdays, 2 p.m.

All mothers and children are welcome.

Cost Price Restaurants at 400 Old Ford Road, and 20 Railway Street. Dinners from 12 till 2 p.m. daily.

ENTERTAINMENT
AT
BOW WOMEN'S HALL, 400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, E.

To-night (Saturday), February 24th, 8 p.m. sharp.
Doors open at 7.30

IN AID OF THE "MOTHERS' ARMS"

Dances, Songs, Recitations, Wax Works, etc.

Artists Include:

MISS ELSIE OBEE. MISS BEATRICE SNEDDON.
MR J BATCHIN. MISS JOAN CHENEY.
MISS E. SMITH. MISS SWAFFER.
M I PHILLIPS. MR. SCOTT

Admission by Programme 3d. and 6d.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

ADULT SUFFRAGE.—A review of the existing franchise anomalies with strong arguments for Votes for All. Published by the London Labour Council for Adult Suffrage.

Copies of this pamphlet 1d. each, or 9d. per dozen, postage extra from Hon. Sec., 400 Old Ford Road, E.

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 1½d.—Malthusian League, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster.

MONTESSORI METHOD—Vacancy for pupil teacher; fee, £5 5s. a term.—Apply, Miss Muriel Matters, The Mothers' Arms, 438 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

SOUTHEND: Furnished Apartments, 8 minutes from sea and train; or Furnished House conveniently situated.—Mr. Warr, 8 Hastings Road.

TEACHER FOR MATRICULATION, must be good at Mathematics and English. Evening lessons required.—Apply, "Violet," this Office.

SUPERVISOR with workroom experience wanted.—Apply, Toy Factory, 45 Norman Road, Bow, E.

WANTED, experienced Machinist. Apply 45 Norman Road, Bow, E.

W.S.F. Draw Competition on March 24th 1917, in aid of the W.S.F., "Dreadnought," and Propaganda Fund. Prizes: 1st, Gentleman's Gold Watch; 2nd an Alarm Clock; 3rd, Lady's or Gentleman's Umbrella; 4th, Bound Volume of "The Woman's Dreadnought." Entrance, 2d. Draw Secretary; Mrs. Drake, 49 Crediton Road, Tidal Basin.

Charge for advertising in this column, 1d. per word; four insertions for the price of three.

Clippings of Material of all kinds (must measure at least 5 by 6 inches) can be used in our Toy Factory at 45 Norman Road, Bow, E., and will be most gratefully received if friends will kindly send them.

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